July 5
1919

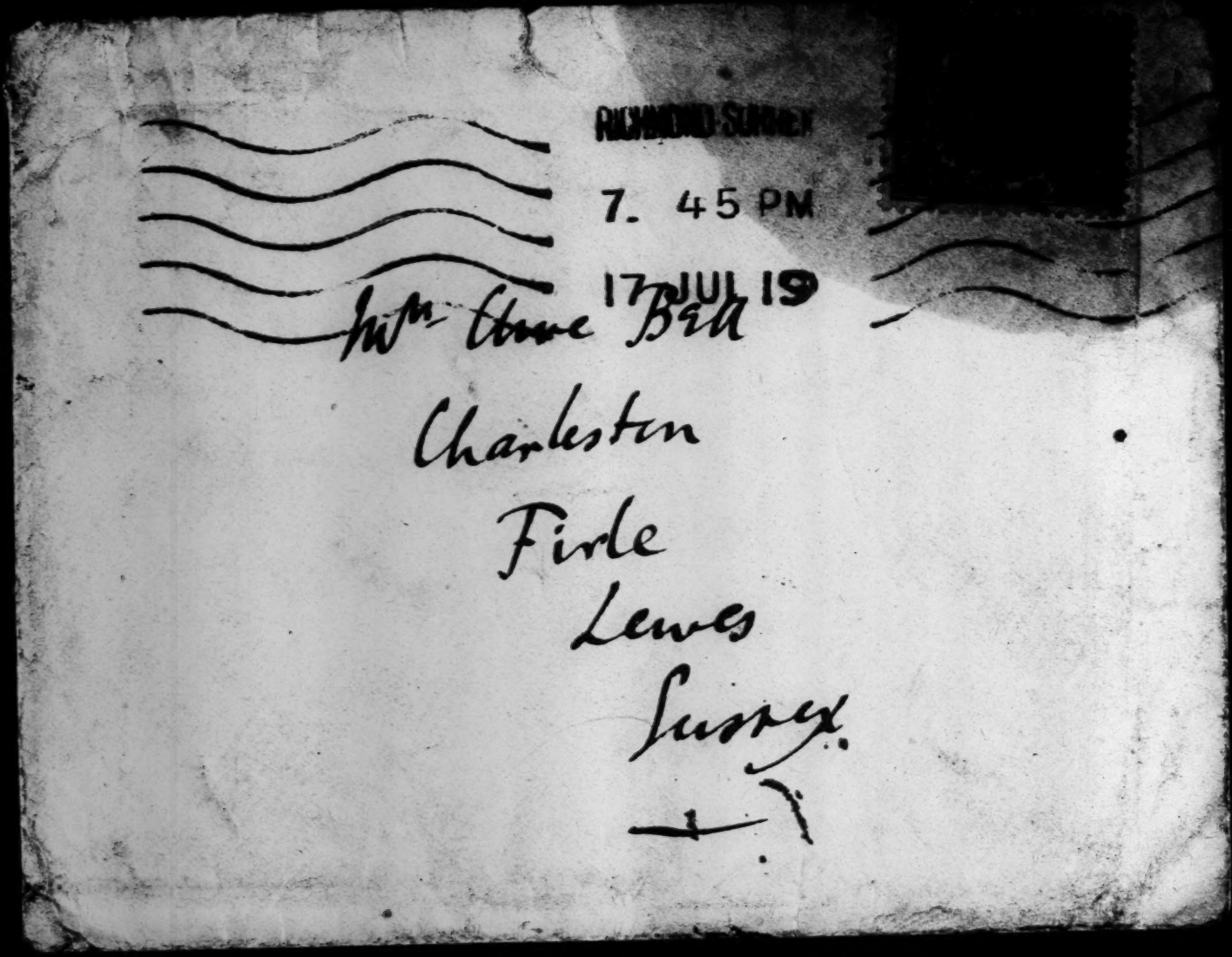
Dolphin

Dear Bradshaw,

Here is 3/ for my lunch; I daresay it cost more, but if so, I will allow you to pay it. If you could send the picture, my gratitude would be unbounded, & I would pay the carriage, or any other expences.

Let me know what you settled to do about Mrs Cholmondeley – Leonard was under him at St Pauls, & says he was very popular & had much the best house there, though L. thought him rather a muscular Christian. But this must have been ages ago.

G B.


RICHMOND SURREY
7. 45 PM
17 JUL 19
Mrs Clive Bell
Charleston
Firle
Lewes
Sussex.

a.38

Postmark: 17 Jul '19

Hogarth,

Monday,

Dearest,

I wish you'd write a say what happened to Julian at his examination. I've a secret hope that he did so abominably in everything that Mr Cholmondely took you aside afterwards & said "Mr Bell I am sorry to have to tell you that your son will never repay Education - in fact he's next door to a natural" But burying nephew, I see little Chance of this. Poor brat! What a melancholy thing - he'll begin to be ashamed of being entire po in public. His melancholy too, about London, & only getting away for holiday -

We sold the Round House, for £320, so we shan't lose anything over it. & I believe if we'd risked waiting we could have got £400. More not much prompt, I imagine, that you haven't already had, since you've been in touch with Clive who is the fountain & well. I wish you'd explain to me the truth about

Lopokhova. Did she run away - a with whom - & why - & where is she? Mrs Hamilton pretended to know for certain that she was ill in a villa in St John's Wood. But then dear old Molly Hamilton has a temperamental lust for the commonplace. She brought her younger sister here the other night, & seldom have I seen such a prodigy; as white as an egg - a large ducks egg; bound about the brow with a fillet of silver; with the manners of a professor & the speech of an elderly & pompous Prime Minister. She writes poems - but no relation of Mrs Hamilton's could write anything save leading articles. She has another sister who paints stained glass; in fact it is generally understood that genius has ena more come to earth; which I cannot allow. Altogether a bit bitter have been dining here. I'm afraid he is a great bore - why will people talk so much nonsense about their writing? After having made me read his manuscript, he told me that he didn't care what I thought of it, & but only wished to see how much I was capable of understanding. Thank the Clover hoof of Cambridge in this, - rather like Horn I mean; the honest sort. How I detest them!

The whole of Richmond is already ringing with Anthems
& I was almost thrown into the river this afternoon by
a man letting off a squib under my feet for a joke.
I don't believe anybody wants it, but we have to go through
with it I suppose – even the servants are completely cynical.
There is little gossip – except a morbid about Fanny
Cornford, which I got from Fredegand. She poor woman
has a delusion that she must never be tired, &
has now spent 2 years in going from rest cure to
rest cure. She refuses to see either her husband or
children. The doctors have at last sent her home,
but think she may be incurable. Of course its
all the result of that Mrs Litchfield, a old Joseph –
was he called? – who used to have the chemist
calling with the butcher. All dowsing, incline
that way. The number of uninitiated friends is
now very small. I spend a good deal of my time
at the Royal Academy. It is a very amazing &
spirited place. I get an immense deal of pleasure
from working out the pictures. But I must not tell
you, or you won't read my article. I can't tattle
down to write it, though, because I always remember
pictures that I haven't quite worked out, & I have to
go back again. The crowd is such that it is often
difficult to get a clear view of a picture. I think
Cocaine is one of the best, but there is a marine
by Burnys
Lira which is also very good.

are going to set up a private printing press in France & are, naturally, coming to us for advice. Did I tell you of my visit to Bain the bookseller? I went with a bag of our books. "Mrs Woolf, he said, so long as you print things queerly I can guarantee you an immediate sale & high prices; but when you have books printed for you, it's a very different matter." "But you see, Mr. Bain" I said, "my taste is very bad." "It's not a question of taste, Madam," he replied; "it's the personal touch." Well, what a mercy it's being rid of one's taste! It's not unlike the Riddance of God. And I saw the most lovely piece of glass today - all volutes & spirals, gold-sprinkled & iridescent. Monk's House with its perhaps the ugliest house in Sussex - not plain ugliness, either, but cultured ugliness, which is worse. By the way, when is Forster coming to you? He wants to combine it with a visit to us - but seemed vague as to the date you'd settled. We come down on the 29th - Thank God. I hear you're having Adrian - not Karin? Omit drisandra him from being a Doctor. Last night I saw something of Duck there & Leonard played Bridge there on a chair that he cried out in horror: it was Karin's leg.

Yours B.

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69

HOGARTH HOUSE, PARADISE ROAD, RICHMOND, SURREY.
TELEPHONE: RICHMOND 496.

29 July 1919

Tuesday,

Dearest,

Your catastrophes are appalling; still, if you wish me to believe that a hair of your infant's head isn't worth a thousand chicken pox I don't. In fact I spend my nights in envy of you. The terrible thing is that I see Quentin will inspire me with an illicit passion — when he's a little older. He wrote me a most charming letter. Still, I wish you ever had a holiday — poor old Wolfhei — whose young peep out from every crevice. I daresay somehow or other you may be up for Maynard's party today. I was amused to hear from Katherine Murry that Ott: has taken the opportunity to come to town. He thought she's going to force her way in, if uninvited. I hope you'll be there to face her down.

If Julian's school doesn't turn out well would it be worth while to ask George Young about his plan? He said he wished you would join. They have a tutor, & spend 6 months in London, the rest in the Country. He said it worked splendidly & the boys learnt much more than at school. They wanted others to join. I could get his address.

The eldest boy was 15 I think: but there was one younger, & 2 little girls.

I ought to be packing at this moment. The agent wrote to us about Stacey's meadow; but we have already more land than we want. I'm afraid we shall have to give up the Cornish Cottages, much against my will. Jenny & Alix are going more for August, on condition they furnish them with beds. I suppose they'll go there; but I don't feel sanguine about the beds. That affair is once more compromised, & Alix by taking our cottage, has persuaded Jenny to give up going to Italy. She deserves to win: it pictures to see her lading out silver to him for dinners & operas. NYPL The Bussy's dined here, & Simon said he thought you the most gifted painter of your set: but then he also said he thought our production v/ker perfect. So you must choose between them. An American publisher has asked to bring it out in America. Forster is coming to us on the 22nd August.

Perhaps we shall meet some time. Do tell me how the parting with Mrs B. went off, & what fate the poor woman is going to— not that I feel required to take her on as my printer's devil.

Y^rs B.

HAMILL 12/29/69

(17 Aug)

6

Athelhampton
Sunday, 31 August, 1919

Dearest,

Here is Quentin's present. Would you give it him on his birthday. Went they come & spend a day with us before they go! We should like it very much — Would they come to lunch & go back after tea? Of course I would be very nice if you could, but if you can't, I daresay we could arrange for Nelly to meet them — take them part of the way back. Tuesday & Friday this week don't do — but any other days.

Foster & Penrose come this next week end. We get pheasants & Monks House tomorrow. I bought 3 pictures!

L.V.B.

7

Athelhampton,

Friday. August 29,
1919

Dearest,

Many thanks for the cheque. I don't suppose Lucan's quite agree with you that I shall be merely in the way during the move - & on the other hand, think myself indispensable. I don't see how they could manage without me. I am very grateful for the offer. Perhaps I might come over one day later in my own car. Anyway, if you have any horse

NYPL

accomodation at Charleston.

The moon begins on Monday;
we are already thrown with old
boxes full of the most interesting
letters - yours & Madges & Walter
Lambs, & I see a very tart one
from Maynard about my
arrangements at Brunswick Square.
We shall be in by Wednesday;
but I'm afraid I shant be able to
ask Lytton to stay, as the servants
will be distracted, & I suppose
giving notice. Tell him I'm
much disappointed.

When will you come over &
see Monks? If you took
train to Lewes my Thursday

would meet you & bring you out;
& then take you back. I shall
be doing a good deal of brush
work on the house, but without
any false shame.

Every one felt that Mrs. Dolphin
was the soul of the party the other
night. Morgan said he was going
to take you that he thought you
beautiful & charming, but he might
be too shy. What struck me most
was the farewell — every one feeling
a little sentimental about
Athelam — old mother Bell
hanging about the terrace looking
for her Badmington bat. "It and
God bring sentimental in there
occasions. Now Leonard, wasn't
there a bit of old carpet —. ? " Immor
woman! GB

NYPL

HAMILL 2/10/68